

# FAIRVIEW MEMORIAL WINTER BIBLE STUDY

February 7, 2017

## THE DOCTRINE CONCERNING PERSEVERANCE AND PRESERVATION

BY  
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Scripture Reading- Psalms 37:23-28

### THE BAPTIST POSITION

"We believe that such only are real believers as endure to the end; that their preserving attachment to Christ is the grand mark which distinguishes them from superficial professors, that a special providence watches over their welfare, and they are kept by the power of God through faith unto salvation." New Hampshire Confession of Faith Article XI

Introduction - This subject deals with the eternal security of the children of God. First, who are the Children of God? I am not referring to everyone who calls themselves Christians, because in our day the word Christian is so widely used that it includes anyone and everyone who identifies with the teachings about Christ, regardless of how distorted or correct their views may be.

Therefore, in this lesson I will apply the doctrine of "perseverance, and preservation" to those only, who have a born again experience; those who have been born from above; born of the Spirit, as the result of repentance toward God and faith in Jesus Christ; at which time God forgave their sins, and imputed the righteousness of Christ to them, took them into his family, recorded their names in the Lamb's Book of Life, and calls them children of God.

In preparing this lesson, I ran across a tract entitled, "Do a Christian's Sins Damn His Soul?" This tract was written by a Baptist preacher by the name of Sam Morris. In the tract he said,

"All the prayers a man may pray, all the Bibles a man may read, all the churches he may belong to, all the services he may attend, all the sermons he may practice, all the debts he may pay, all the ordinances he may observe, all the laws he may keep, and all the benevolent acts he may perform, will not make his soul any more safe,... and all the sins he may commit, from idolatry to murder, will not make his soul in any more in danger."

I believe that statement to be true, and that this is precisely what the Bible teaches.

To the carnal mind this does not sound right. To many, it just doesn't make sense. But the word of God said, "My thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, saith the Lord." (Isaiah 55:8) So, in all matters we humbly defer to the eternal Word of God.

To understand the preservation and security of those who have been saved, it is necessary to understand what salvation is, how it is obtained, and what it means to be saved:

Salvation of the soul is not a "day to day work in progress until death", at which time you will learn if you are saved, (safe) One is either saved (has been delivered from the penalty of sin and eternal death) and made safe, and no longer in danger; or has not been delivered and made safe, and is still under condemnation and in danger of perishing in Hell. Salvation of the soul is the instantaneous work of the Holy Spirit in regeneration. In that experience a penitent sinner, passes out of the state of "condemnation to eternal destruction", and into the state of "life eternal".

Jesus said, "Verify, verify, I say unto you, He that heareth my word, and believeth on him that sent me, hath everlasting life, and shall not come into condemnation; but is passed from death unto life" (John 5:24)

### THE MEANS OF SALVATION

What does the Bible teach? Does the scripture teach salvation by ^GRACE" as/for the security for the soul? Or, does the scripture teach that the maintaining of your saved state, depends on your "WORKS"? Do those who are given eternal life, in salvation, have a lifetime guarantee or do they have a limited warranty? I say those who are saved are save and secure and they have a life time guarantee. This guarantee is underwritten by the Eternal Word of God and secured by the precious blood of Christ by which he purchased our redemption. (1 Peter 1:18-21)

True Baptists believe and teach that salvation is wholly, completely and entirely of grace. Let's look at the Word of God; "For by grace are ye saved through faith, and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: Not of works, lest any man should boast" (Ephesians. 2:8-9)

Paul helps us understand the meaning of the terms "by grace" and "not of works" and the difference thereof. He said, "... if by grace, then it is no more of works: otherwise grace is no more grace But if it be of works, then it is no more of grace: otherwise work is no more work." (Romans 11:6) "By Grace" means an unearned and undeserved favor bestowed and received; "By Works" means a benefit given and received, because you earned it. that is you worked to obtained it.

Salvation is either a free gift of God, as the Bible says; (Romans 6:23) or it is earned and sustained by works; and the Bible says this cannot be done. "... by the deeds of the law there shall no flesh be justified in his sight" Paul continued, "Therefore, we conclude that a man is justified by faith (made right in the sight of God) without the deeds of the Law." (Romans 3:20)

### DON'T MISUNDERSTAND

The gift of salvation is conditional! The conditions are "repentance toward God and faith in the Lord Jesus Christ" (Acts 20:20-21 These conditions must be fully met before the gift of eternal life is given. (See Acts 11:18)

With many so-called churches, it is unthinkable that you could go to heaven without earning your way in. But a place in Heaven is not a reward for being good or doing good. Rewards are earned if our works abide the judgment, and lost if they do not. (1 Cor. 3:13-15) But a place in heaven is an inheritance one receives, solely on the basis of the New Birth. (1 Peter 1:3-5)

"And if a son, then an heir of God through Christ" (Galatians 4:3-7) ^That being justified by his grace, we should be made heirs according to the hope of eternal life". (Read Titus 3:5-7)

Some believe a saved person can fall out of grace, and although born again, may become lost because of something they do or say. This is not consistent with being Saved by grace, not by works. The only people that fall from grace are those who try to justify themselves by works and do not trust in the all sufficient Savior, who by the grace of God tasted death for every man. Paul said, "Stand fast therefore in the liberty wherewith Christ hath made us free and be not entangled again with the yoke of bondage." (The yoke of bondage, refers to trying to keep the law as a means to obtain righteousness) "Christ is become of no effect unto you, whosoever of you is justified by the law, ye are fallen from grace." (Galatians 5:1& 4) Rejecting the grace that saves, and trusting in works that cannot save, is falling from grace. Only the unsaved can do this!

Can a saved person apostatize? Webster's 1828 Dictionary defines the word apostatize "to renounce a religious or political believe or principle. So,... Can a saved person apostatize? Yes! Can a saved person apostatize and become lost? No!

It's true, the Bible says, "... in the latter times shall depart from the faith, (the doctrines they have previously held) giving heed to seducing spirits and doctrines of devils;" and many have. People, even saved people, can change their mind about what they believe, but they can not change their relationship to God, by changing their minds. And that brings us to the other side of my subject, which is perseverance.

## THE IMPORTANCE OF PERSEVERANCE

Definitions from Webster's 1828 Dictionary

1.Perseverance - Adherence to a cause of action, belief, or purpose without giving up.

2.In Theology - Perseverance is the doctrine that those who have been chosen by God, (saved, bom again) will continue in a state of grace to the end, and finally be saved in Heaven.

The Apostle John said, "Whosoever believeth that Jesus is the Christ is born of God:" The word believeth in this passage in the Greek is pisteuo and means, to have faith in the person Jesus Christ, the Son of God; and to entrust one's spiritual well-being to him. (1 John 5:1)

Then in verses 4 and 5 he says, "For whosoever is born of God overcometh the world: (prevails and gets the victory) and this is the victory that overcometh the world, even our faith. Who is he that overcometh the world, but he that believeth that Jesus is the Son of God."

Paul the Apostle said, I have suffered many things for the cause of Christ, "...nevertheless I am not ashamed: for I know whom I have believed, and am persuaded (totally convinced) that he is able to keep that which I have committed unto him against that day." (2 Timothy 1:12)

"He that beleiveth on the Son of God hath the witness in himself;...." (1 John 5:10).

Those who are saved, will continue in the state of grace to the end of life and will be received into heaven, as Jesus said, "And because iniquity shall abound, the love of many shall wax cold. But he that endureth unto the end, shall be saved". (Matthew 24:12-13) It goes without saying that only the saved will endure to the end. The unsaved cannot endure or persevere because they are not in a saved, or safe state. They are still under the law of sin and death.

Jesus said, I am the good shepherd, and I am the door to the sheep fold, if any man enter in he shall be saved; (made safe). If Jesus starts out with 100 sheep he will finish up with a hundred sheep. How do I know this? In his prayer Jesus made this request, "Holy Father, keep through thine own name those whom thou hast given me.... while I was with them in the world, I kept them through thy name, those that thou gavest me I have kept and none of them is lost, but the son of perdition..." (John 17:11-12)

Although Judas played the role of as a disciple of Jesus, filling the office as an apostle and as a church treasurer, he was a devil from the beginning. Judas had not been saved, and proved he had not been saved by betraying the Lord Jesus. Jesus said, "Beware of false prophets... Ye shall know them by their fruits..." (See Matthew 7:15-16) Judas did not go to the Fathers House at death; (John 14:1) He went to his own place. (Acts 1:25)

Saved people are not exempted from temptation or exposure to sin. Although the soul is saved and safe from eternal danger, the body has not yet been saved. However, at the time of salvation we obtained an inheritance, that we should be to the praise of his glory, who first trusted in Christ. In whom ye also trusted after ye heard the Gospel of your salvation; in whom also after ye believed ye were sealed, with the Holy Spirit of Promise which is the earnest (down payment) of our inheritance until the redemption of the purchased possession. This is the lifetime guarantee that our bodies will also be redeemed in the resurrection. Therefore, the whole person, soul, Spirit and Body will be preserved blameless unto the coming of Our Lord Jesus Christ. (1 Thessalonians 5:23)

"For the Lord loveth judgment, and forsaketh not his saints; they are preserved forever: but the seed of the wicked shall be cut off." (Psalms 37:28)

In conclusion: Saved people do not have a license to sin. Chastisement follows disobedience! It is important to hold fast the profession of our faith. (Hebrews 10:25)

Perseverance is important, not as a means for us to stay saved; but as a means for others to be saved. This lost world is our responsibility! We are the light of the world, ... let your light so shine, that men may see your good works..." (Matthew 5:14-16) We are to be " ... blameless and harmless in the midst of a crooked and perverse nation, among whom ye shine as lights in the world: Holding forth the way of life;..." (Philippians 2:15-16)

Those who profess, but do not Possess salvation will not escape the damnation of Hell! But the children of God will persevere in grace and receive the inheritance of Our Heavenly Father.